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'NOT TO THEIR KNOWLEDGE'

Did CIA aid Catholics?

WASHINGTON—(NC)—If any Catholic youth and student groups ever received any Central Intelligence Agency money, they were unaware of it, leaders said this week.

It is possible, however, that some CIA funds might have been channelled to such groups, without their knowledge, through foundations.

Listed among those who may have received some help in this way have been the National Newman Club Federation and the International and North American Secre-

taries of Pax Romana, the international organization of Catholic students and intellectuals.

If any CIA funds were channelled to Catholic groups, no strings of any sort were attached, leaders said.

Father Raymond Kelly, executive secretary of Pax Romana North America, said that as far as he knows, Pax never received CIA funds. He added that Pax would not favor income from CIA.

Father Kelly said that no conditions ever were attached to grants received from founda-

tions, except the normal agreement to report on what the money was to be used for — seminars, for instances, travel expense to international meetings, and the like.

Father Thomas Carlin was assistant director, Youth Department, National Catholic Welfare Conference, from 1952-1960. He said that at no time was he aware of any connection between CIA and the National Student Federation or the National Federation of Catholic College Students.

Never were any strings attached to any grants received from foundations or other benefactors, he said, and added:

"I would have been in position to know if any funds received were latched on to conditions involving commitments to the CIA or any other group."

Meanwhile, the National Council of Churches disclosed that in recent years it had received some minor grants from foundations now said to have been allegedly linked with CIA, but was not aware of the alleged links.